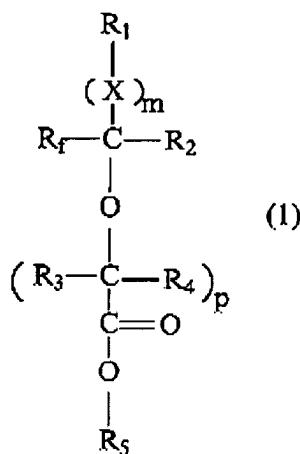


Serial No. 10/658,840  
Filed: September 9, 2003

Complete set of claims

Claims

1(currently amended). A photoresist composition comprising a photoacid generator, a solvent and at least one novel polymer comprising at least one unit as described by structure 1,



where, either

(i)  $R_1$  is an aliphatic cyclic unit of a polymer,  $R_2$  is selected from H, F,  $(C_1-C_8)$ alkyl,  $(C_1-C_8)$ fluoroalkyl, cycloalkyl, cyclofluoroalkyl, and  $(CR_3R_4)p(CO)OR_5$ , and  $R_f$  is selected from F, H,  $(C_1-C_8)$ alkyl, or a fully or partially fluorinated alkyl, and cyclofluoroalkyl, or

(ii)  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  combine to form an aliphatic cyclic unit of a polymer, and  $R_f$  is selected from F, H,  $(C_1-C_8)$ alkyl and a fully or partially fluorinated alkyl, and cyclofluoroalkyl, or

(ii)  $R_1$  and  $R_f$  combine to form an aliphatic cyclic unit of a polymer, and  $R_2$  is selected from H, F,  $(C_1-C_8)$ alkyl,  $(C_1-C_8)$ fluoroalkyl, cycloalkyl, cyclofluoroalkyl, and  $(CR_3R_4)p(CO)OR_5$ ; and,

Serial No. 10/658,840  
Filed: September 9, 2003

$R_3$  and  $R_4$  are independently H, F,  $(C_1-C_8)$ alkyl,  $(C_1-C_8)$ fluoroalkyl, cycloalkyl, cyclofluoroalkyl,  $(CR_3R_4)p(CO)OR_5$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  may combine to form an alkylspirocyclic or a fluoroalkylspirocyclic group,

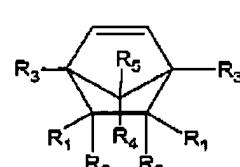
$X$  is selected from  $(C_1-C_8)$ alkylene,  $(C_1-C_8)$ fluoroalkylene,  $O(C_1-C_8)$ alkylene,  $O(C_1-C_8)$ fluoroalkylene, cycloalkyl and fluorinatedcycloalkyl,

$R_5$  is H or an acid labile group,  $m=0-1$ , and  $p=1-4$ .

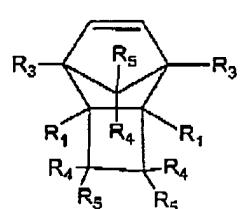
2(original). The composition according to claim 1, where the polymer comprising the unit of structure 1 is a reaction product of polymer containing an aliphatic cyclic fluoroalcohol unit with a compound capable of functionalizing the fluoroalcohol unit with an alkyloxycarbonylalkyl group.

3(original). The composition according to claim 1, where the cyclic unit is an aliphatic multicyclic unit or an aliphatic monocyclic unit.

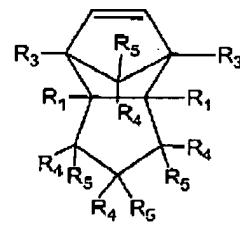
4(original). The composition according to claim 1, where the unit of structure 1 is selected from those derived from the following monomers,



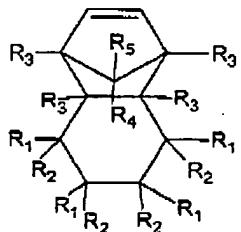
I



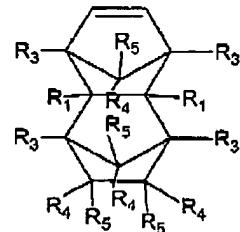
II



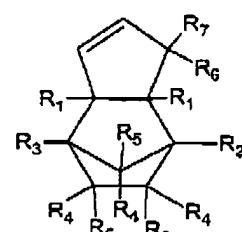
III



IV



V

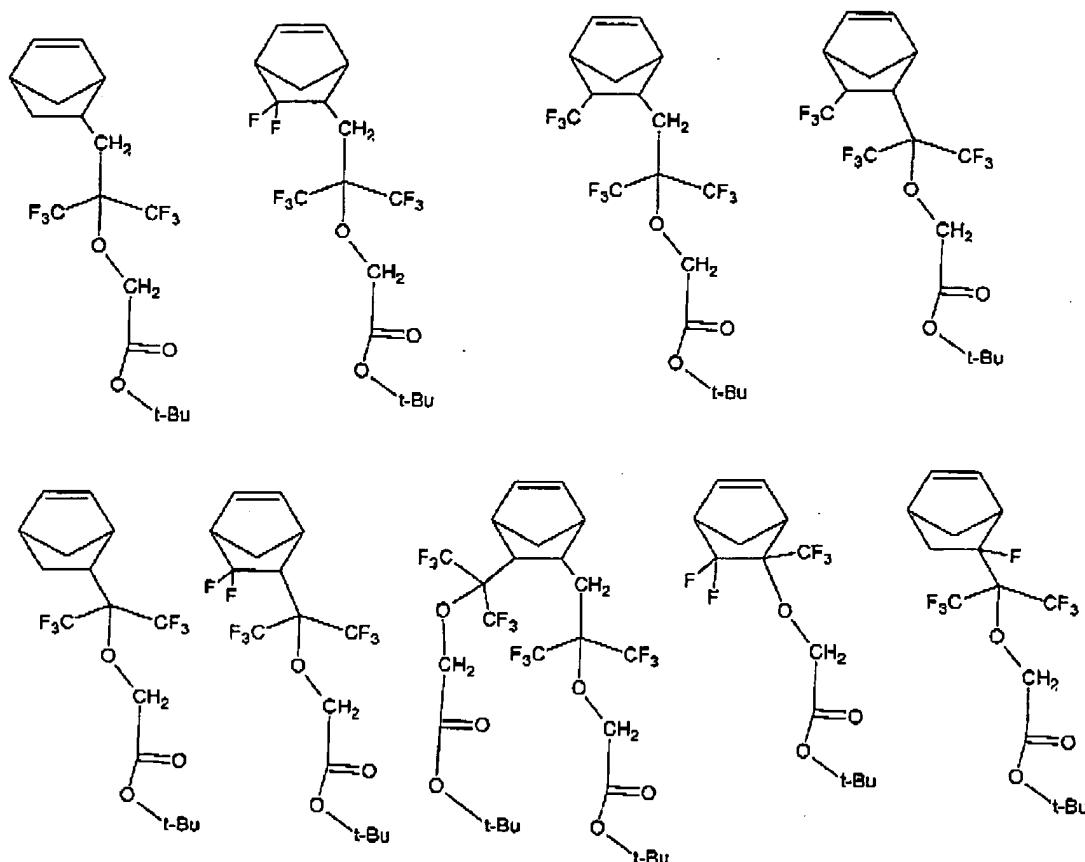


VI

Serial No. 10/658,840  
Filed: September 9, 2003

where, in the above structures, R<sub>1</sub>-R<sub>7</sub> are independently H, F, (C1-C8)alkyl, (C1-C8)fluoroalkyl, and at least one of R<sub>1</sub>-R<sub>6</sub> forms the unit described in structure 1.

5(original). The composition according to claim 1, where the unit of structure 1 is selected from the group derived from the following monomers,

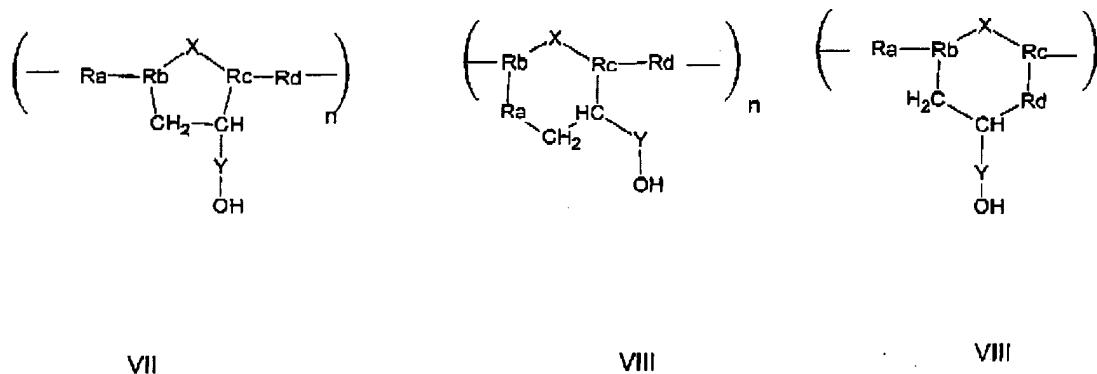
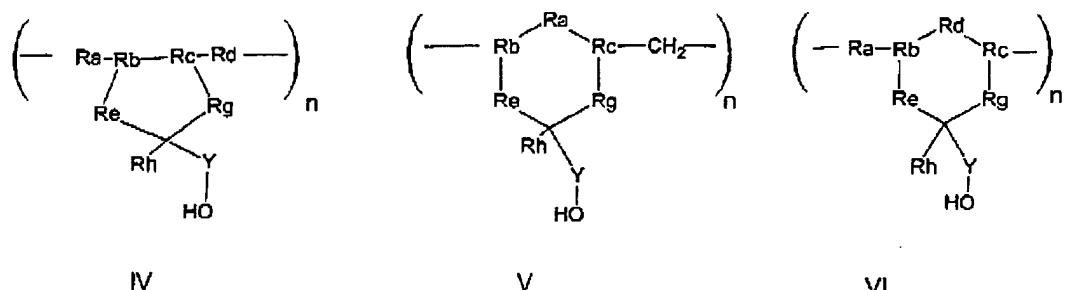
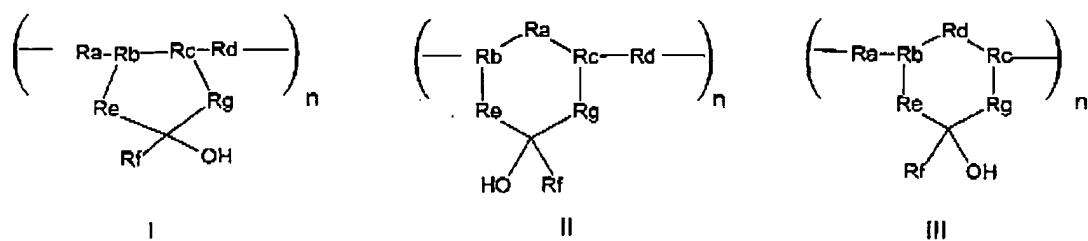


6(original). The composition according to claim 1, where the aliphatic cyclic unit is a monocyclic unit.

Serial No. 10/658,840  
Filed: September 9, 2003

7(original). The composition according to claim 1, where the polymer comprising the unit of structure 1 is a reaction product of polymer containing an aliphatic monocyclic fluoroalcohol unit with a compound capable of functionalizing the fluoroalcohol unit with an alkyloxycarbonylalkyl group, and further where the monocyclic fluoroalcohol polymer is selected from,

Serial No. 10/658,840  
Filed: September 9, 2003



Rf is a fluoroalkyl group (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)

Y is independently alkyl or fluoroalkyl spacer group (C1-C8)

Ra, Rb, Rc, Rd, Re, Rg, Rh are independently alkyl, fluoroalkyl, fluorocycloalkyl, and Ra-Re and Rg can independently be substituted with alkyl, fluoroalkyl, cycloalkyl, fluorocycloalkyl or with a spirofluoroalkyl or spiroalkyl substituent

X is independently CF<sub>2</sub> and O

Serial No. 10/658,840  
Filed: September 9, 2003

8(original). The composition of claim 2, where the alkyloxycarbonylalkyl group is selected from t-butyloxycarbonylmethyl, methyl-adamantyloxycarbonylmethyl, t-amyoxy carbonylmethyl, methyl-norbornyloxycarbonylmethyl, t-butyloxycarbonylpropyl and t-butyloxycarbonyldifluorobutyl.

9(original). The composition of claim 1, where the acid labile group is selected from secondary and tertiary alkyls, acetals and ketals, trimethylsilyl,  $\beta$ -trimethylsilyl substituted alkyls, tetrahydrofuranyl, tetrahydropyranyl, substituted or unsubstituted methoxymethoxycarbonyl, and  $\beta$ -trialkylsilylalkyl.

10(original). The composition of claim 1, where the polymer comprises further units containing nonacid labile groups and/or acid labile groups.

11(original). The composition of claim 1, where the polymer is selected from poly(bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-en-2-yl)-1,1,1-trifluoro-2-(trifluoromethyl)propan-2-ol), poly(1,1,2,3,3-pentafluoro-4-trifluoromethyl-4-hydroxy-1,6-heptadiene and poly(1,1,2,3,3-pentafluoro-4-trifluoroalkyl-4-hydroxy-1,6-heptadiene).

12(original). The composition of claim 1, where the polymer comprises a mixture of polymers comprising monocyclic units and polymers comprising multicyclic units.

13(original). The composition of claim 12, where the polymer mixture is poly(bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-en-2-yl)-1,1,1-trifluoro-2-(trifluoromethyl)propan-2-ol) with poly(1,1,2,3,3-pentafluoro-4-trifluoromethyl-4-hydroxy-1,6-heptadiene).

14(original). The composition of claim 1, where the composition further comprises a dissolution inhibitor.

Serial No. 10/658,840  
Filed: September 9, 2003

15(original). The composition of claim 1, where the composition further comprises a base or a photobase.

16(original). The composition of claim 1, further comprising secondary polymers.

17(original). The composition of claim 1, where the photoacid generator is selected from diazonium salts, iodonium salts, sulfonium salts, triazines, oxazoles, oxadiazoles, thiazoles, substituted 2-pyrones, phenolic sulfonic esters and mixtures thereof.

18(original). A process for imaging a photoresist composition comprising the steps of:

- a) forming on a substrate a photoresist coating from the photoresist composition of claim 1;
- b) image-wise exposing the photoresist coating;
- c) postexposure baking the photoresist coating; and
- d) developing the photoresist coating with an aqueous alkaline solution.

19(original). The process according to claim 18, where the image-wise exposure wavelength is below 200 nm.

20(original). The process according to claim 18, where the aqueous alkaline solution comprises tetramethylammonium hydroxide.

21(original). The process according to claim 18, where the aqueous alkaline solution further comprises a surfactant.

Serial No. 10/658,840  
Filed: September 9, 2003

22(original). A process for making the polymer of claim 1, where a polymer comprising an aliphatic cyclic fluoroalcohol unit is reacted with a compound capable of functionalizing the fluoroalcohol unit with an alkyloxycarbonylalkyl group, in the presence of a mixture comprising at least one organic base.

23(original). The process of claim 22, where the organic base is selected from an ammonium base, a phosphonium base and a sulfonium base.

24(original). The process of claim 22, where the organic base is  $(R_1')(R_2')(R_3')(R_4')NOH$ , and wherein  $R_1', R_2', R_3'$  and  $R_4'$  are independently  $(C_1-C_{20})$  alkyl.

25(original). The process of claim 22, where the mixture further comprises a salt selected from an ammonium salt, phosphonium salt and sulfonium salt.

26(original). The process of claim 22, where the organic base is selected from tetramethyl ammonium hydroxide, tetrabutyl ammonium hydroxide and mixtures thereof.

26(original). The process of claim 22, where the cyclic unit is an aliphatic multicyclic unit or an aliphatic monocyclic unit.

27(original). The process of claim 22, where the alkyloxycarbonylalkyl group is selected from t-butyloxycarbonylmethyl, methyl-adamantyloxycarbonylmethyl, t-amyoxy carbonylmethyl, methyl-Inorbornyloxycarbonylmethyl, t-butyloxycarbonylpropyl and t-butyloxycarbonyldifluorobutyl.